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Miller Sets Alumni Arena Scoring Record In Pirates' 90-87 Win Over USC Aiken

USC AIKEN	ARMSTRONG			
87	Final	1	2	T
	USC AIKEN (15-6, 11-3 PBC)	53	34	87
	ARMSTRONG (13-7, 9-4 PBC)	47	43	90







Posted: Feb 09, 2013

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** - Armstrong Atlantic State University senior guard **Aric Miller** hit for an Alumni Arena-record 39 points to lead the Pirates past USC Aiken, 90-87, in Peach Belt Conference action on Saturday afternoon in Savannah.

The Pirates whittle down the Pacers' lead in the PBC's East Division to just one game as Armstrong improved to 13-7 overall and 9-4 in the Peach Belt, while USC Aiken fell to 15-6 overall and 11-3 in the league.

Miller's free throw with 9:11 remaining in the second half gave the PBC's leading scorer 36 points on the afternoon, tying him for the Alumni Arena record with North Florida's Jamaal Williams, who had 36 against USC Aiken on February 21st, 1998, in the 1998 Peach Belt Conference Tournament held in Savannah. The free throw also made the lead eight, 77-69, for Armstrong.

USC Aiken whittled the lead down late, finally taking its own lead on a Paul Larsen jumper with 1:26 left to put the Pacers up, 85-83. Two free throws from **Antroine Williford** made it a tie game at 85-all with a

GAME LEADERS		
<b>USC AIKEN</b>		
<b>Pts:</b> Paul Larsen - 23		
<b>Reb:</b> Paul Larsen - 14		
<b>Ast:</b> 2 Players (#02, #23) - 5		
<b>ARMSTRONG</b>		
<b>Pts:</b> Aric Miller - 39		
<b>Reb:</b> 4 Players (#11, #24, #32, #33) - 6		
<b>Ast:</b> Aric Miller - 4		
TEAM STATS		
USC AIKEN		ARMSTRONG
(31-72)	<b>Field Goals</b>	(28-59)
43.1%	<b>Field Goal %</b>	47.5%
47	<b>Rebounds</b>	36

minute to go, while two free throws from the Pacers' Re'Mon Nelson put the Pacers back up by two, 87-85, with 39 seconds left.

On the next possession, Miller pulled up at the top of the key off of a ball screen and drained a three-pointer for his record-breaking 39th point and also put the Pirates back in front, 88-87, with 24.3 seconds left.

On the ensuing possession, a pass by DeVontae Wright into the paint from the right baseline skidded across the floor and the Pirates' **Kenny Bellinger II** pounced on the floor, smothering the ball and calling time out with 10.4 seconds left.

Williford was fouled on the inbounds pass and made two free throws with nine seconds left, and USC Aiken's last chance to tie was a three-point attempt by Ronald Zimmerman, which fell short.

"Coming into the year, Aric did a great job in the offseason," Armstrong head coach "All of our offense revolves around him. The best thing about it is that he could care less. If he got 39 or if Kenny Bellinger would have gotten 39, he doesn't care. He was really good early [today], then he went through a stretch where he was settling for jumpers too much, and then late I told him, let's go to our two-man game, just play simple basketball. We've worked on it and worked on it. I trusted him to make a good play."

Miller finished the night hitting 12-of-27 shots from the floor, including 2-of-10 three-pointers, as well as 13-of-15 shots from the free throw line en route to his second-highest scoring output of the season. Williford added 17 points and Bellinger II notched 16 points as well for the Pirates.

"We were two games back in second place, Aiken is really, really good and we talked about winning championships and winning the East side," Luther said. "If we didn't get this win, they'd be three up with six games left. It was a must win, if you want to compete for the league [title]."

USC Aiken was led by Larsen's double-double of 23 points and 14 rebounds. Nelson finished with 20 points while Wright chipped in 15 points off the bench and Santoine Butler added 13 points.

Armstrong returns to action on Thursday, February 14, visiting Lander for a 7:30 p.m. Peach Belt Conference contest in Greenwood, S.C.



15	Assists	11
14	Turnovers	12
16	Pts off Turnovers	15
23	2nd Chance Pts	13
32	Pts in the Paint	34
5	Fastbreak Pts	10
20	Bench Pts	9

FULL STATS

## ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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